

ON A NEW SPECIES OF PTEROPINE BAT FROM THE NEW BRITAIN GROUP.

By E. PIERSON RAMSAY.

THE species at present under consideration appears to have been overlooked by previous writers on the *Chiroptera*. Several specimens occur in a large collection made in the year 1875 by the Rev. George Brown in the New Britain Group of Islands. Judging by the measurements given by Messrs. Dobson and Thomas respectively for *Pt. edulis* and *Pt. grandis*, the present species is considerably the largest of the family as yet discovered, the total length of the head and body of the largest examples being fourteen and a-half inches, and the expanse of the wings sixty-two inches, as against twelve and about sixty in *Pt. edulis*, and thirteen in *Pt. grandis*.* The forearms of the three species measure, however, as follows:—

<i>Pteropus rufus</i> ...	...	7.24 Inches	...	181 Millim.
„ <i>edulis</i> ...	...	8.80	„	220 „
„ <i>grandis</i>	...	6.5	„	163 „

PTEROPUS RUFUS, *sp. nov.*

Adult female. The general colour is an uniform rusty-red above and below, with a narrow streak of a darker shade along the margin of the wing-membranes at their attachment to the body. The arm (*humerus*) is clothed at the base with hair similar to that on the body, but towards the distal end it becomes scanty and of a dull brown tint; the membrane adjacent to the arm-bones below is sparsely sprinkled with dull blackish-brown hair; the basal portion of the legs (*femora*) is also clothed with hair similar to that on the body; on the back the hair is very much compressed, and even more so on a narrow line between the shoulders where it is almost black, like the wing-membrane itself; the hair on the hind neck, chest, and breast is longest and grisly; on the face shorter; the ears, a small space in front of the orbits, and the muzzle, naked; a few straggling long black hairs on the face and round the mouth; the hair on the forehead between the orbits, and that on the occiput, is short, slightly compressed, and of a lighter sandy yellow tint; on the throat a darker rufous than that of the body. Wing-membranes nearest the back almost black, the remaining portions blackish-brown.

* Mr. Oldfield Thomas does not mention the expanse of the wings in this species.

Adult female—Dimensions :—

Skin—Head and body, 14.50 inches (362);* head, 3.75 inches (94); muzzle, 1.52 inch (38); ear, above crown, 0.84 inch (21); fore-arm, 7.24 inch (181); thumb, 2.52 inches (63); free portion of thumb, 0.82 inch (20.5); first joint of index finger, 5.84 inch (146); tibia, 3.24 inches (81); calcaneum, 1.00 inch (25).

Skull—Greatest length, 3.36 inches (84); greatest breadth across zygomatic arches, 1.81 inches (45); length from supra-orbital foramen and tip of nasals, 1.10 inch (27.5); interorbital breadth, 0.44 inch (11); from interorbital foramen to tip of nasals 1.60 inch (40); from anterior foramen to tip of nasals 1.15 inch (29); intertemporal breadth, 0.39 inch (10); breadth from tip to tip of postorbital processes, about 1.25 inch (31); diameter of orbit, 0.70 inch (17.5); length of zygomatic arch from anterior foramen to base, 1.65 inch (41); width of zygo-bone 0.20 inch (5); palatal length, 1.60 inch (40); length of lower jaw from condyle 2.70 inches (67.5); height at base, 1.35 inch (34); at last molar, 0.45 inch (11); at first, 0.40 inch (10); distance between condyle and tip of ascending ramus, 0.70 inch (17.5); width of skull at base of arch, 1.10 inch (37.5); base of the skull, 0.93 inch (23).

Dentition—Upper incisors not in contact: the combined breadth of the four, 0.28 inch (7); distance from anterior margin of upper canine to posterior margin of premolar, 0.58 inch (14.5); of the three molars, 0.61 inch (14); length of upper canine, 0.36 inch (9); of the lower, 0.30 inch (7.5); of the two lower premolars, 0.36 (9); of the four molars, 0.84 inch (21); combined length of the three largest cheek teeth, 0.75 inch (19); breadth of the central one, 0.15 inch (4); last molar much larger than one of the outer incisors, its antero-posterior diameter, 0.12 inch (3). Outer incisors of the lower jaw slightly larger than the inner; second premolar distant from the canine; the first premolar equal to the diastemata in front of and behind it, 0.08 inch (2) in diameter; molar much larger than one of the middle *upper* incisors, or than the outer *lower* incisors.

Dental formula—I. $\frac{2-2}{2-2}$, C. $\frac{1-1}{1-1}$, Pm. $\frac{1-1}{2-2}$, M. $\frac{3-3}{4-4}$ = 32.

* The bracketed figures represent the length in millimetres.